

# EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

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## East Bay labor movement set for battle against GE



CHARLES ROE

### Charles Roe dead; former Carpenter, Federation leader

Charles Roe, former vice president of the old California State Federation of Labor and for 22 years business representative of Hayward Carpenters 1622, died last week at 59.

Roe served the Carpenters in many area and state capacities, and was a member of various city and county commissions prior to his retirement on disability in 1967.

He was a charter member of  
**MORE on page 8**

### BTC to act on per capita; backs vet aid

The Alameda County Building Trades Council this week voted to make its next meeting, December 2, a special meeting to discuss and act on a proposed 5 cent per member per month increase in per capita payments from affiliates.

The proposal calls for an increase to 35 cents, with the additional 5 cents going to the council's general fund to end recent failure of income to match council costs. Minimum local union payment would be \$10.

The BTC endorsed the Veterans Hospital Christmas Fund campaign, to provide Christmas decorations, entertainment and gifts for an estimated 1,500 patients in two Alameda County Veterans Administration and service hospitals.

Council President Paul Jones suggested that local unions forward their Christmas Fund donations to the BTC so building trades labor's contributions could be made in one large lump sum.

Leroy Barstow, of Painters 1178, the BTC representative on the Christmas Fund committee, urged generous donations by local unions. He noted that many Viet Nam veterans have added to the number of patients.

Delegates paid tribute to the  
**MORE on page 6**



WILLIAM L. KIRCHER

### Labor sounds alarm as vote on Murphy legal aid veto near

The Murphy amendment, which would allow state governors to veto anti-poverty legal services programs — including California Rural Legal Assistance which invalidated Governor Reagan's MediCal cuts—was due for a House vote possibly this week.

Labor, including the Alameda County Central Labor Council, urged renewed letters to Alameda County Congressmen asking them to vote against the amendment, which was introduced by Senator George Murphy and passed the Senate narrowly.

It would allow governors to veto legal assistance programs within their states under the federal Office of Economic Opportunity or to determine what kinds of legal services they could render to the poor.

### Giant firm threatens all unions, says Kircher

The East Bay labor movement made it plain this week that it has taken up the challenge of giant General Electric, aware that the big stake in the nationwide GE strike is real collective bargaining for all workers.

AFLCIO Director of Organization William L. Kircher told a GE strike rally Monday night that GE's "take it or leave it" approach to non-bargaining is just one symptom of a national big business drive to cripple the labor movement and prevent it from effective bargaining.

"What is going on now is being beamed at the GE workers," Kircher said, "but the next barrel is ready for you."

#### MINIMUM GOAL

With a minimum goal of \$1 from each member, the AFLCIO is seeking to raise a \$14,000,000 to \$15,000,000 war chest to back the 147,000 GE strikers, he said. The aim is to win them a fair settlement and stave off an offensive against other unions' ability to gain adequate pay and conditions.

"Nothing will be more conducive to a change in GE's attitude than an enthusiastic response on your part," Kircher told the rally.

The Alameda County Central Labor Council, which sponsored the rally in place of its regular meeting Monday night, has turned over to its executive committee the job of coordinating GE strike support, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Richard K. Groulx told the rally.

"But we need lots more people," he said. "We need a speakers bureau and every business agent should be a potential speaker because we must get to

every kind of organization. GE will."

#### TELL THE STORY

At least 50,000 bumper strips must be on cars, "not sitting in the union office," he urged.

"A letter will go to each union asking for special contributions in addition to the \$1 per member," he said. "GE is not without funds."

The rally was attended by 300 officers, shop stewards and other active members of AFLCIO, Teamster and other unaffiliated unions, including a sizeable contingent of GE strikers. A joint rally appearance by strikers from the AFLCIO International Union of Electrical Workers and the unaffiliated United Electrical Workers demonstrated Kircher's declaration that "this is the kind of issue which cuts through all differences we might have and gets to the bedrock of union fundamentals."

#### AREA REPRESENTED

Also present were Contra Costa County CLC Secretary Art Carter, representative of the Solano County labor movement, Orle Babbish, an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers negotiator, California Labor Federation President Albin J. Gruhn

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### from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

#### More good, good news from the oil industry

Last week this column was a critical review of the house organ which Union Oil Company of California sends to stockholders and it should be good judgment to change the subject this week.

In fact, I had planned to discuss the problems which two young lady reporters had in New York when one of them objected to use of her byline on what she called an inconsequential story and the other backed her up.

### OFFICIAL NOTICES

Correspondents columns will be found on page 4 of this edition of the Labor Journal. Unions will find notices of important meetings called by their officers on page 6.

This would have allowed room to compare the independence of today's youth, which never had to worry much about economic security since there have always been plenty of jobs in their lifetime up to now, with the craven attitude of us elder statesmen who went through the Depression when a job was the greatest thing in the world and lots of us didn't have one.

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BUT OIL is a persistent factor and another handsome, expensive-looking house organ, the one which Texaco, Inc., sends to its stockholders, has come to hand and demands immediate comment.

Unlike Union's book, the cover shows us no shapely bikini wearing beach girls but what looks like an eight to 10-story steel building, also in color, until you look again and see that it is the  
**MORE on page 8**

## New U. S. cheap youth labor hint

President Nixon's secretary of commerce, Maurice H. Stans was quoted last week that the administration was thinking about cutting teen agers' minimum pay to \$1.20 to \$1.25 per hour from the \$1.60 minimum which covers adults and young workers.

But Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz told the AFLCIO that he would personally oppose such a cut, indicating a possible split within the administration.

Stans' trial balloon recalled the East Bay Labor Journal's disclosure last May that Secretary Shultz had directed the Bureau of Labor Statistics to survey the effect of possible future minimum wage changes for youth.

BLS Commissioner Geoffrey H. Moore wrote the Labor Jour-

nal then that the administration has been "concerned with the relatively high rates of unemployment of young people . . . The argument has been advanced that the minimum wage contributes, in some degree, to this problem . . ."

The BLS' survey was to be a hurry-up affair, completed in July but not to be submitted to Shultz until September. Since Moore's admission it was underway, however, nothing more had been heard of changes in youth minimum wages until Stans' remarks last week.

When reminded that a lower youth rate would encourage employers of already low-paid labor to replace adult workers with

teen agers, Stans agreed but said "there's nothing wrong with that."

AFLCIO President George Meany wrote Shultz, asking for clarification of the newspaper reports. Shultz told him "the only study going on around here, relevant to your question about a possible youth wage, is one to determine to what extent, if at all the minimum wage is responsible for the high rates of unemployment among youth."

"I have made no policy decision to recommend a youth wage at all, and I would oppose any youth wage figure below the existing statutory minimum of \$1.60 an hour for all persons in covered industries."



## HOW TO BUY

# It's inflation, says Santa Claus

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIUS**  
Consumer Expert for  
Labor Journal

Toy prices have taken a startling jump this year; much higher in fact than most other goods. Some toy manufacturers even have adopted the "hidden price rise" trick of the food business. They have kept prices the same but have reduced the sizes or number of pieces they give you.

We interviewed S. Claus, long-time toy distributor, to find out why toy prices have gone up so drastically. He explained that government spokesmen recently had attributed higher meat prices to "inflation," and this was true of toys too.

"BUT 'INFLATION' is 'higher prices'," we pointed out. "They mean the same thing."

"That's right," Mr. Claus said firmly. "The higher prices are due to higher prices."

While not all toys have gone up, the majority surveyed have. Some \$4.99 toys have gone up to \$5.99, and \$7.99 toys to \$8.99. Most of the increases are an extra buck (from you to them). But some are even more. A popular toy oven which was \$15.49 last year now is \$17.99. Another that was \$6.99 is \$10.88.

The increases of 10 to 25 per cent on many toys cannot be attributed merely to "inflation," as Mr. Claus has been led to believe. Over-all consumer prices are up about 6 per cent from last year, while so-called household durable goods, which should be

cost comparable to children's toys, are up about 4 per cent.

Some toys do not cost more, but they give you less. For example, the famous Lincoln Logs, a really good construction set, is only \$4.99 instead of \$5.49 as last Christmas. But you get 165 pieces instead of 208. The Lego building blocks now give you 670 pieces instead of 619, but have gone up a whopping \$4 to \$16.99. (Actually you get more if you buy two of the 326-piece sets for \$6.29 each).

IN TOY "food mix" sets too, a 130-piece set that was \$8.99 now is \$9.99 for 125 pieces. A set that was \$4.99 last year is the same price, but you now get 42 pieces instead of 45.

Some of the dolls have gone up in price and shrunk in size. That talkative Mrs. Beasley doll has gone up about \$1 in some stores and has been reduced in size an inch. So has Baby Precious. While our children play with their toys, the toy manufacturers are playing with us.

As before, we suggest not buying early. Price cuts get bigger closer to Christmas. Also, don't believe the "list price" is the real price, especially on TV-advertised toys. On some toys we've never actually seen any store charging the full list price. Stores use TV-advertised toys as specials, cutting the exaggerated list prices sharply. This makes for widely-varying prices on the same toy. Some stores may offer specials at only half the price charged by other retailers.

Here, for example, are the wide variations in prices on some of the highly-advertised playthings:

Voice Control Astronaut Base: \$6.99, \$9.98.

Johnny Lightning 500 Track Race Set: \$8.91, \$9.99, \$10.99.

Amaze-A-Matic Cars: \$3.99, \$4.99.

Battling Tops game: \$1.99, \$2.99.

Hot Wheels Super Charger set: \$10.88, \$16.95.

Tricky Whistle School Bus: \$7.54, \$8.44, \$8.99, \$9.99.

Crissy Doll: \$6.81, \$7.77, \$9.99.

Skittle Bowl (a good family game at a reasonable price): \$4.77, \$5.88, \$6.95.

Miss Union Maid, the famous seven-inch miniature doll offered by unions to acquaint families with union labels, finally has gone up too, after selling for \$1 for six years. Miss Union Maid is \$1.50 plus 50 cents for postage and handling, from Union Label & Service Trades Council, 119 East 27th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016. (They need three weeks to deliver in time for Christmas). The doll is dressed in a nylon net ballroom gown, has sleeping eyes and moving arms, and comes with a 10-inch dome. Organizations can buy these dolls for \$1.50 with the Council paying the postage, in lots of three dozen or more.

Miss Union Maid is one of the few dolls still made in the U.S. Many of the others, such as Barbie, are made in Japan but still sell for several times the price of Miss Union Maid.

You can buy attractive gift books for youngsters from the government itself, or more precisely, the Division of Public Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

These include Exploring Space With a Camera, \$4.25; Explorers and Settlers, \$3.50; Outdoors USA, \$2.75; The Book of Mars, \$5.25; Questions About the Oceans, \$2; Founders and Frontiersmen, \$3.

A good gift for adults is the famous Co-Op Cookbook, available for \$1 from local co-ops or by mail from Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley, 1414 University Avenue, Berkeley, Calif. 94702. (Copyright 1969)

## Family advice workshop due

Two free workshops aimed at helping poor people and other workers solved family and household problems will be held Monday and Tuesday, November 24 and 25 at the Fruitvale Community Development Center under auspices of the Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley.

The meetings will take place from 1 and 4 p.m. each day, covering individual legal rights and housing possibilities on Monday, and Social Security, financial budgeting and getting and using federal food stamps on Tuesday.

Those planning to attend may sign up with Mrs. Frankie Arrington at the center, 1477 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, or may attend without advance registration.

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## YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

by Sidney Margolius

### "TRUTH IN LENDING"

THIS NEW LAW WON'T HELP YOU UNLESS YOU MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU. ASK WHAT THE ANNUAL INTEREST RATE IS ON YOUR INSTALLMENT PURCHASE OR LOAN (AND CHECK THE CONTRACT FOR THIS INFORMATION BEFORE YOU SIGN IT). BUT THEN COMPARE THE ANNUAL INTEREST RATE (NOT JUST THE AMOUNT YOU PAY EACH MONTH) AMONG OTHER LENDERS AND SELLERS.



**CASH**

IN HAND. OFTEN YOU MAY BE ABLE TO FINANCE FOR LESS BY BORROWING FROM A CREDIT UNION OR BANK AND THEN MAKING YOUR PURCHASE FOR CASH.

### GIVE YOUR DOLLAR MORE POWER

WHEN YOU SHOP FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S APPAREL INSIST ON THE LABEL AT THE RIGHT. AT THE LEFT IS THE LABEL OF THE UNITED PAPER MAKERS AND PAPER WORKERS.



## 2 years - no result on ineffective drugs

For close to two years the wealthy drug industry has balked the Federal Food & Drug Administration from taking off the market even one of the 200 drugs FDA has labelled ineffective.

FDA's failure is the result of suits by the manufacturers plus snags resulting from administrative delays.

Dr. James L. Goddard, President Johnson's FDA commissioner, promised in December, 1967 that the government would force all ineffective drugs out of circulation within two years.

FDA disclosed that 25 of the 200 are off the market—but not by its action. They were taken off by the manufacturers after proving to be less profitable and not often called for.

Removal of the other 175 has been stalled by three major suits by drug manufacturers, testing the government's procedures for forcing withdrawal. Congress gave the FDA the power to rule

on effectiveness of drugs back in 1962.

The National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council then took on the chore for the government of surveying all drugs put on the market since 1963. It came up with a list of 1,700 brand-name drugs which it said should be removed for lack of effectiveness.

FDA moved against 200 of them, but to date without result.

### What it costs

Meat costs 30 cents of each dollar the American consumer spends on food and dairy foods cost 16 cents, says the National Food Outlook for 1969. Indicating wage increases won by unions, food accounts for less of total consumer expenditures, 16.8 per cent last year compared to 18 per cent in 1966.

### Drug testing

Dr. William Bean of the University of Iowa Medical Center told the United States Senate monopoly subcommittee that the drug industry should not be allowed to test its own products. He said that drugs should be tested by government or medical groups independent of the drug industry.

### Demand the Union Label!

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## BOOST THE LABEL

BUY UNION LABEL PRODUCTS ONLY

When making purchases, always ask for the union label. If building a home or repairing one, see that the men doing the plumbing or steamfitting work, painting, etc., belong to the union. Ask to see their Card. Boost the union emblem and help yourself.

PATRONIZE  
UNION STORES  
DEMAND  
A UNION CLERK







## Senate debates Haynsworth

Debate was underway this week in the U.S. Senate over President Nixon's hotly controversial nomination of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth of South Carolina to the United States Supreme Court.

As the floor fight opened, newspaper polls reported a majority of Senators opposed the nomination, including some key Republicans.

Among them was Robert F. Griffin of Michigan, assistant Republican leader in the Senate.

In an 18-page report spelling out his opposition, Griffin said Haynsworth gave conflicting testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, "indicated an unfortunate lack of judgment" and an insensitivity "to the high ethical standards expected of those who are to sit on the Supreme Court."

Griffin cited such things as Haynsworth ruling in cases in-

volving companies of which he was a stockholder and in cases involving clients of his former law firm. Griffin said Haynsworth ruled for the firm's clients in 10 of 12 cases.

Another Republican, Senator Len B. Jordan of Idaho, announced he would vote against confirming Haynsworth. Also lining up against the nomination was Democrat Stuart Symington of Missouri while Kansas Republican James B. Pearson swung over to support Haynsworth.

Nixon rejected requests to withdraw the nomination. The AFL-CIO, which uncovered "conflict of interest" data on the judge, spearheaded the opposition.

Haynsworth himself said that if the Senate refuses to confirm him, "I might resign" as judge of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, or "I might not."

The majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee, in a 10-7 vote, recommended Haynsworth as "well qualified."

A minority report by five Democrats challenged Haynsworth's judicial record and accused him of "a constant insensitivity to the rights of individuals" on civil rights.

Voting with the committee majority was Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican floor leader.

## Mills College letter disclosed as strike looms

The Joint Executive Board of Culinary Workers this week released a copy of a letter Mills College sent its 46 kitchen employees—a letter that knocked out a representation election scheduled for last week and precipitated strike plans.

The unions said the letter violated an agreement that neither side would contact employees before the vote.

It was a buildup for a meeting of the administration with employees, from which unions were barred. As a result of the letter and meeting, the unions withdrew from the vote, cancelling it.

The letter contrasted some paternalistic benefits, like free Oriental food and cheap lodging in Chinese House, with what it said unionism would mean.

In the carefully worded letter, Mills President Robert J. Wert expressed "a great disappointment that some of our loyal and longtime employees have felt it necessary to encourage an outside group to negotiate for them."

No strike date has been set.

## Muskie tells the priorities -- food, peace, environment

The big question before the world is whether "this planet can sustain the human race," furnishing peace and food and preserving the environment against pollution and destruction, United States Senator Edmund S. Muskie told Congressman Jeffery Cohelan's testimonial dinner last Friday night.

Muskie proposed that America devote 20 per cent of its gross national product to meeting that challenge.

He got agreement in his assessment of the immediate human problem from San Francisco Mayor Joseph L. Alioto who told the overflow dinner at Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland that "the burning issue of the 1980's is can we preserve this environment?"

Both praised Cohelan's record of conservation, human rights and other major issues.

Muskie warned of a climate of fear which should be dispelled by positive action on the country's big problems. Noting internal friction, he said that different groups "still don't know how to talk to each other."

"Our differences create fears—fears which decide the outcome of political campaigns," he said, "and the policies of the victors, determining arms as against principle as United States policy in the world."

He criticized the "failure of our system to produce the kind of leadership free people need" in an apparent reference to the Nixon administration.

The 1968 Democratic Vice Presidential candidate noted that he had learned much in his campaign but, referring to GOP Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, he added that holding the "office obviously is not too educational."

Failure to preserve the environment from pollution is "a disgrace," he said, adding that in his state of Maine with only 1,000,000 people, deterioration of the environment is visible.

## New CLC delegate

John L. Thomas was seated last week as a delegate from Dental Technicians 99 by the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

## House unit bans farm jobless pay, federal minimum

The House Ways & Means Committee has voted for limited improvements in unemployment insurance but has refused to extend protection to farm workers or set federal minimum benefits.

The measure extended coverage to 2,100,000 more workers but left 14,000,000 still uncovered.

It added another 13 weeks to benefits whenever unemployment exceeds 4.5 per cent nationally or 4 per cent in the state for three consecutive months. The current limit is 26 weeks in most states.

Employer contributions would rise 20 per cent to one half of one per cent of payroll.

The committee ignored AFL-CIO recommendations to extend coverage to all wage and salaried employees and to provide benefits equal to two-thirds of regular earnings.

Workers added under the bill are those in very small firms; salesmen, except life insurance salesmen, and employees of universities, state hospitals and non-profit organizations.

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## Steamfitters 342

BY JIM MARTIN

Approximately 250 of our members were in attendance at our last Union meeting held on Wednesday, November 12. One minute of silence was observed in memory of Business Representative Lou Kovacevich and Brother Henry Doering.

The membership also overwhelmingly approved the appointment of President Bobby Beeson and Vice-President Perry Davidson as interim Business Representative and Board of Trustees member, respectively. They will act in this capacity until an election is held in January of 1970 to fill the balance of the offices which, as you know, were held by Brother Kovacevich. Also, Brother Hector Taves was appointed by President Beeson as an interim delegate to the Contra Costa Building Trades Council.

Nomination of officers for our Union's off-year election, which will be held on Sunday, December 14, 1969, produced a large number of candidates. You will be mailed a sample ballot in the near future listing those candidates seeking office. Likewise, we want to remind you to set aside the Union's election date, Sunday, December 14, 1969—come by and vote — as the polls will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Our work situation remains good as reported by Business Representative Doyle Williams. This is due to a three week shutdown starting November 17 at the Shell Oil Refinery in Martinez. We hope the employment situation remains as such.

For those members who were unable to attend the November 6 membership meeting, we wish to call to your attention that four Resolutions were introduced and will be acted upon at our next membership meeting on December 14. This meeting has been designated as a Special Called meeting.

The first Resolution calls for a reduction in the vacation assessment from 20 to 13 cents per hour. The second Resolution provides that the Union purchase new automobiles in January of 1970 which will be 4-door sedans equipped with air-conditioning. The third Resolution provides that the monthly dues for Building Tradesmen employed as estimators, building inspectors and one-man refrigeration shops, etc. be a flat rate of \$15 per month. The last Resolution calls for the Business Manager of the Local, by virtue of his office, to serve as a Board of Trustees member and a delegate to the various Councils.

Kindly arrange your affairs so you may be present at our next membership meeting on Sunday, December 14, 1969.

Also at the December 14 meeting, nominations will be open for the offices of Business Representative, President, Board of Trustees and delegate to the Contra Costa Building Trades Council. These offices to be filled will be for the balance of 1970.

Have you checked your dues book lately?

## AFSCME 371 'Info'

BY NAT DICKERSON

We have no doubt that most students of psychology would agree, that competitiveness is a natural trait.

A story is told of how two men were shipwrecked upon a desert island; having restricted space as the isle was very small, there was no chance for much physical activity.

While waiting to be rescued they would each day argue as to which of them had grown the longer toenails since the previous day.

Whether they starved to death, or were rescued, we do not know, but can be sure they never ran out of competitive situations.

In most instances competitiveness is a meritorious quality; in striving for proficiency, efficiency, excellence, and in all efforts aimed towards degrees of perfection.

Nor is it strange that persons adept at administrative functions should exploitatively use their knowledge of this inherent quality, to pit one individual against another to expedite harsh working conditions caused by a minimum of personnel.

This has been the offensive pattern witnessed and experienced by the writer, in Wurster Hall.

We have no way of verifying these facts, as regards other areas, unless complaints are registered with the Executive Committee.

Such abuses have recently become a common practice, we are so informed.

Also implausible is the maximum use of these premises overnight and through weekends, without proper security measures being provided.

Is it possible that all the vandalism and sabotage being committed is compensated by the lack of further security?

The cumulative impact, to custodians over weekends, is also difficult to surmount, to say nothing of the amount of extra paper work provided for an already harassed foreman.

On the Sick List for this week are the following Brothers: A. Robertson, a former union officer, of 1940 9th Avenue, Oakland; J. Johnson, 945 Channing Way, Berkeley; C. E. Deeds, 1947 21st Avenue, Oakland; Leon Shelton, 5007 Webster Street, Oakland, and C. Fauts, 16401 San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo.

Please try to cheer them up.

## Millmen's 550

BY ARSIE BIGBY

A week or so ago, I heard a commercial over my car radio, soliciting contributions to help feed 10,000,000 poverty stricken Americans who go to bed hungry.

As I listened to that commercial, I couldn't help but think what a pitiful state of affairs to exist in a land of plenty, such as we have in this country; where billions are spent to send men to the moon, and millions are spent in building monuments to the dead, without the slightest hesitation on the part of our elected representatives.

I also thought what better testimony could the Congress and Administration want than that, to make them adopt the, "Job for every one able to work" policy that the AFLCIO called for at their convention in Atlantic City recently. Such a program could go far, I believe, in easing the tensions through the country, and for the American Indian, the Mexican American and the Negro, and many others who are seeking the same thing. They are all crying for justice. But justice is not hearing, for Justice is drowning in a sea of status quo conservatism so far as domestic programs are concerned, while billions are being spent to learn about the unknown, while millions of dollars more is spent to honor the dead. It is enough to cause one to wonder what our elected representatives use for brains, to allow such things to happen. Why not provide for the living. The dead are gone.

There must be people intelligent enough and with heart enough to figure out a way to divide the wealth of this country to the point where every one gets a big enough share so that he wouldn't have to go to bed hungry, or stoop to begging to exist.

The AFLCIO proposed the best solution, in my opinion, for those able to work to live respectably.

## Sheet Metal Workers 216

BY ROBERT M. COOPER

After about four years of expectation, it looked like the Edgewater was finally going to build that tower they have talked about so much. No such luck, though, they are adding 200 more rooms. I still think that tower should be built.

The Daily Builder listed the reconstruction job of the old Oakland Hotel between Alice and Jackson Streets. This is estimated as a \$6,000,000 job. If there is one thing Oakland needs badly, it is a first class hotel. It might surprise you to know that with all its seven motels, Oakland cannot handle a convention of any size, when they host a convention, the delegates must find quarters from Fremont to Concord.

The new Oakland Center office building and apartment complex in the same area as the hotel, was also listed. This is a \$20,000,000 project consisting of approximately 260 department units on 15 floors and 93,000 square feet of office space on 23 stories.

Keep your fingers crossed that these two projects will get underway post haste.

We are grateful to Vincent Smith who donated his \$13.77 picket check to P.A.L. and Joe Barnett and Anthony Souza did likewise with their checks of \$4.59 each.

John MacDonald, Walt Leo, Sonny Mercado, Tom Warens Sr., and Robert R. Silva each contributed \$5 to P.A.L. \$3.00 a piece was donated by Melvin Scott and Ernie Rocha.

It is a great sacrifice for people like Russ Tolman (who has been out of work and will continue to be, due to an illness) to contribute not \$1 but \$2. There is a good member who realizes it takes money to elect candidates in our favor. Henry Thorpe, Walt Lightfoot and Bob Forkey also sweetened the pot with \$2 each. Fred Freigang and John Vidulich and William Horgan kicked in a dollar a piece.

The above is an additional \$64.95 we will be sending to the International for P.A.L., bringing our total contribution for this year to \$596.29.

We still have P.A.L. books, so if you haven't sent your contribution, do it now, please. The need is here.

Regular meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Tri-State death benefit No. 659 is now due and payable.

## Steel Machinists 1304

BY DAVE ARCA

Hi. Our All American Holiday arrives next week. Thanksgiving. And, a Happy Thanksgiving to you. Suddenly, Christmas is only weeks away. How about that?

Anyone can find something to be thankful for. Even Kaiser Can Company Picketers. No kidding. If nothing else, we can be thankful Kaiser's Negotiator is not twins. Perhaps we're unkind. Twins aren't all identical. Could be Kaiser's Negotiator can be thankful WE weren't born multiple. Oh well, he does his thing. We do ours; and "never" the twain shall meet." Which is economic garbage.

Six years ago, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. We assumed Texans were violence prone. Then, a year ago, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated. In Los Angeles, California. It's obvious now, hate isn't regional. It's a state of mind. Wherever injustice and persecution prevails, there find hate.

Hate is a many faceted thing. Hate can grip and grind your heart and mind, while festering.

Sometimes seen upon some faces; Hate can suddenly ex-

plode. And, when deep in inner spaces, its acid can corrode.

The poor aren't immune to hate. The rich yield to hate from fear. Now November; were're remembering, Hate will kill, any time of the year.

It's an indictment of our intelligence, that we can place men upon the Moon. Yet cannot provide Peace and Goodwill on earth to all men. We've been a long time trying.

Perhaps perseverance will one day prevail. If we did remove hatred from all hearts. Would you hate that? Okay.

## Watchmakers 101

BY GEORGE F. ALLEN

By the time you read this column, all members will have received a letter from the union relative to the changes in our insurance programs, effective December 1, 1969.

We feel we have done very well this year. Although there was the anticipated increase in cost of both programs, we were able to obtain additional benefits for our members.

Employe members of both coverages, i.e., Kaiser Health Plan and Group Insurance, received an increase in weekly disability benefits.

For those members covered under our Group Insurance, there has been, aside from the increase in weekly disability benefits, an increase in the Major Medical Daily Hospital room and board allowance. In addition to the increase in Major Medical room and board allowance, U.C.D. is no longer integrated with our Major Medical room and board allowance. U.C.D. is now an additional benefit for you.

Also, for the first time, we are able to offer the Self-Employed members, Major Medical coverage also.

ONCE AGAIN THE TURKEY IS IN THE OVEN and time to wish you and Yours

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

## Chips and Chatter

BY GUNNAR (BENNY) BENONYS

Happy days at the Allen and Barbara Linder home. They have a newly arrived daughter, Kimberly Ann; weighed in at 6 pounds 14 ounces on November 11, 1969 at 12:45 a.m. Mother and daughter doing fine, Allen is on cloud nine, very proud!

Lloyd Sawdy just informed me his son, Daryl E. Sawdy is now a Private in the Marine Corps and is at San Diego undergoing his basic training.

Isaac Scott is enjoying his boat that he built for both pleasure and fishing. Recently he caught a 17 pound bass!

Brother Abe Grietzer recently came home with several large salmon he caught. Wonder how those salmon steaks tasted

Mrs. Louis Askern at 1806 Tenth Avenue, Oakland, (535-0829) has some fine carpenter tools for sale and some power tools also. Call her if you're interested.

Brother Joe Marley is the very first carpenter to register for "READER'S REWARD." Remember any carpenter is eligible. Send a post card to Uncle Benny, Carpenters Local 36, 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland 94621, and you may qualify for an award. All cards must contain the name, complete address, local union number, Social Security number and phone number. Several wives called to ask if they are eligible. Yes, they are also eligible, providing they send in a separate post card with the member's details.

Brother Al Thoman reports that the list is slowly climbing each week, after all it's almost winter time, the seasonal rains are just around the corner. Thanksgiving is next week and

## Here's a word for our correspondents

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving, which means turkey and cranberry sauce—and less time to set type for the following week's East Bay Labor Journal.

So, to avoid a last-minute rush, union correspondents' columns and meeting notices should be delivered as early as possible, preferably by next Friday and hopefully no later than next Monday.

Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving.

## Qualifications told for Upgrade's first graduate

Roy Carnegie, who has the distinction of being Project Upgrade's first student to attain journeyman status, is well qualified for his graduation.

Now working as a journeyman plumber and member of Plumbers & Gas Fitters 444, Carnegie had six years experience in the plumbing industry before he entered Upgrade, Local 444 Secretary & Business Manager George A. Hess disclosed.

After his year's on-the-job training under Upgrade, he passed high in the written examination for journeyman and was voted in by the membership, having met Local 444's journeyman requirements. Hess said.

Those standards will not be lowered, Hess added. Upgrade, developed by the Alameda County Building Trades Council in conjunction with the General & Specialty Contractors, trains minority craftsmen with at least 50 per cent of journeyman proficiency.

Students take related classroom instruction at Laney College and are trained on the job at journeyman pay. Project Upgrade pays contractors most of the difference between journeyman scale and a rate corresponding to the trainee's graded proficiency. This is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor which also pays foreman scale for journeymen acting as on-the-job instructors.

## Progressive Club names Rufus Day president

The East Bay Progressive Club of Oakland Typographical Union 36 has named Rufus Day as its new president. Others elected were John Mattox, first vice president; Truman Nussbaum, second vice president; Paul Nipple, third vice president; Wilbur Leonard, secretary, and T. F. Trautner, treasurer.

## Safety award

E. A. (Al) Brown, director of the Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee at Santa Rosa, was awarded the "Citation for Meritorious Service to Safety" by the Labor Conference of the National Safety Council for his contribution toward accident prevention.

Christmas is so close it's practically here.

The work picture is still good. A few jobs rolling in each morning.

Today, Tuesday, is a sad day. Charles Roe will be laid to rest. Former business representative of Local 1622, he was well liked and did a tremendous job for his members.

Brother John Moore got his car and his tools back after two weeks. Apparently whoever stole it just used it for a joy ride.

See you at your next union meeting, Brother?



## Acorn praised for 'brightest buildings,' big housing value

The magazine Architectural Forum has hailed the Oakland Acorn housing development of the Alameda County Building Trades Council as "Oakland's brightest new buildings of the season."

Roger Montgomery, professor of urban design at the University of California in Berkeley, who wrote the article, praised the moderate income development for design, value and social success.

"Acorn gives an astonishing amount of dwelling for the dollar," Montgomery wrote.

"In social and housing market terms, Acorn looks good indeed," he called it a "triumph of faith."

"The racial composition is exceptionally diverse — to the surprise of many who thought integration an impossible goal

in West Oakland," the article said.

"About half of the tenants are black; the others include whites, Chicanos, Indians, Orientals — the whole racial mix characteristic of the cosmopolitan San Francisco Bay region."

Montgomery noted that the technological conservatism of the development "stands out sharply in the current Oakland context of considerable experimentation with industrialized buildings."

"... doubtless the choice was wise," he wrote, noting that "after all, this project has produced more homes for more people in Oakland than all the experiments."

The Architectural Forum's comments add to a lengthy series of praises and awards for Oakland Acorn.

## Tax reform battle shifts to Senate floor; letters urged

The fight over tax reform is headed into another round, this time on the floor of the United States Senate next month.

The Senate Finance Committee finally sent out its watered down variation of the House approved tax revision, which in turn was a moderate approach of the AFLCIO recommendation for tax justice.

Labor urged a flood of letters to Senators Alan Cranston, and George Murphy, asking tax justice.

AFLCIO Research Director Nathaniel Goldfinger told the recent California Labor Federation tax reform conference in Fresno:

"The campaign for tax justice is in danger... We need mail from your members, their neighbors, relatives and friends to the members of the House and Senate, particularly your two Senators, urging tax justice."

"An outpouring of mail is needed now, in the next several weeks — before the Senate votes on this issue, before the House and Senate conferees meet to merge their separate bills. The issue is of crucial importance..."

The "fat cats," representing big business and the very wealthy are working like beavers to denature any real tax reform, he warned.

The Senate committee restored tax free status to municipal bonds, boosted to 23 per cent the oil depletion allowance which the House had cut from 27.5 to 20 per cent, and reopened the capital gains loophole, which taxes income from sale of stocks or property at about half the rate on wages.

### POSITIVE MEASURE

The committee did reject, on an 8-8 vote, a proposal by Republican Senator Paul J. Fannin of Arizona to deny tax exempt status to unions if they engage in political action.

Fannin is expected to revive it on the floor.

Oil, Wall Street and industrial lobbyists will be back in droves fighting for their own loopholes.

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The AFLCIO will be pushing for true tax justice including tightening loopholes through which the wealthy escape taxes and revision of tax relief provisions to give a greater share of benefits to moderate income families.

## Save Point Reyes, says Labor Council

The Point Reyes National Seashore is in danger, the Alameda County Central Labor Council warned in letters to President Nixon, Senators and Congressmen asking immediate action to acquire the needed land.

Congress has approved \$200,000,000 each year for five years to finance the Point Reyes seashore reserve, but the Nixon administration has cut the amount to \$124,000,000 in the current budget. Unless other funds are found, the people could lose the proposed recreational area, the Labor Council warned.

### AFTRA leader dead

Bud Collyer, radio and television star and president of the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists in 1948 and 1949, has died in Greenwich, Conn., at 61.

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## Labor movement grows—but not enough

The labor movement continued to grow, crossing the 20,000,000 membership mark for unions with headquarters in the United States in 1968, the Labor Department disclosed.

But, despite organized labor's growth of close to 1,000,000 since 1966, union memberships in proportion to total non-agricultural work force fell slightly in the two years.

Another significant statistic was the 1,100,000 growth in union membership by federal, state and local government employees in the 10 years from 1958 to 1968.

Public employee unions accounted for more than half of the total labor movement growth

in those 10 years, said the department.

Total membership in the United States and Canada of international unions headquartered in the United States was 20,200,000 in 1968.

Total union membership in the United States climbed to 18,843,000 in 1968, up 903,000 from 1966.

That was a 5 per cent rise.

Unions were a bigger percentage of the total United States labor force, including farm workers, in 1968 than in 1966 or 1967. They represented 22.9 per cent, compared with 22.7 per cent in the previous two years.

But the unionized percentage of the nation's 67,860,000 non-ag-

ricultural workers in 1968 was 27.8, contrasted to 28.1 per cent of the 63,955,000 employed in non-agricultural jobs in 1966.

The AFLCIO gained about 880,000 members in the two years but had a net membership loss to 15,600,000 from 16,200,000 with the ouster in 1968 of the United Auto Workers, a 1,472,696-member union.

National unaffiliated unions, with inclusion of the UAW, numbered 4,600,000 in 1968, against 3,000,000 in 1966.

White collar union membership was 3,200,000, up 434,000 over 1966 and women unionists increased by 251,000 to 3,900,000.

## Nixon's consumer plan under attack

President Nixon's "buyer's bill of rights" came under attack from consumer spokesmen in Congress as an "inadequate and unconstructive" move to "create the appearance of progress."

Criticism centered on power given the Justice Department to block consumer damage suits against industry and to override the President's representative for consumer affairs in legal and regulatory proceedings.

Nixon's Justice Department entered into a consent arrangement with auto manufacturers to drop an anti-trust suit involving smog devices in exchange for car makers agreeing to stop conspiring to delay development of such devices.

The administration's bill would not allow consumers to band together to sue a manufacturer or seller for damages unless the Justice Department had successfully prosecuted the company for one of 11 types of fraud or deception.

If the department decided not to sue, consumers would be denied the right of class action, the board of directors of the Consumer Federation of America pointed out.

"No agency should have that power," the board said. "The President's excuse is to protect business from harassment. The courts themselves have ample authority to reject frivolous suits."

The bill would create a Consumer Protection Division in the Department of Justice and an

Office of Consumer Affairs in the President's office.

Assistant Attorney General Richard W. McLaren, in charge of the anti-trust division, told a House committee hearing that the attorney general's office would settle any disputes over consumer representation in legal or regulatory proceedings. He said the President's consumer representative would be consulted.

Asked if the President's consumer adviser was consulted before the out-of-court settlement of the antismog suit, McLaren replied, "Frankly, it didn't occur to me."

His questioner was Congress-

sional critic of the Nixon measure, Democratic Congressman Benjamin S. Rosenthal of New York who is the chief sponsor of another bill which would centralize legal, administrative and other consumer protective activities in an independent federal agency.

Some minor aspects of the administration proposal were endorsed by the Consumer Federation of America, a group of 140 labor, cooperative and other consumer oriented organizations. But overall they called the bill a retreat from earlier positions taken by Virginia H. Knauer, Nixon's special assistant for consumer affairs.

## 3rd try for School Supt.

The Oakland School Board is in the process of making its third try to find a new superintendent, with no change in the procedures which have drawn opposition of the Oakland Federation of Teachers and others.

OFT spokesmen have repeatedly urged the board to involve the teachers, the community, the parents and the students in the choice. Otherwise, they said, the third try would fail like the first two.

Seymour M. Rose, acting president of the board of education,

said the "same procedures" would be used.

He said they included invitations to the OFT and Black Caucus to participate by meeting with the screening committee and Dr. Harry McPherson, the board's consultant on selection.

George Stokes, OFT executive secretary, protested, "We meet only with the people on the screening committee. We never meet the candidates."

"We want to be participants in choosing the superintendent, not just give advice."

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# OFFICIAL UNION NOTICES

## RETAIL CLERKS 870

The next regular membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25 at 8 p.m. at the Union Auditorium, 6537 Foothill Boulevard, Oakland.

As was previously announced, the nominations and election for Sergeant at Arms will be held at this meeting.

Fraternally,  
CHARLES F. JONES,  
Pres.

## SCHOOL EMPLOYEES 257

The next Regular Meeting of the Oakland, California Unified School Employees Union, Local 257, will be held on Saturday, December 13, 1969 at 10:30 a.m. at Castlemont High School Auditorium, 8601 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, Calif. There will be a non-attendance fine of \$5. Please notify Executive Secretary by letter if absence occurs.

The Executive Board will meet in the Community Room at 8 a.m. Rolls for voting for our Election will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lobby of Castlemont High School Auditorium.

Plenty of parking on school grounds.

Fraternally,  
HAROLD BENNER,  
Exec. Sec.

## PAINT MAKERS 1101

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 1969 at 8 p.m. in Hall "C" at the Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland.

Fraternally,  
CARL LAWLER,  
Rec. Sec.

## CARPENTERS 36

The regular meetings for Carpenters Local Union 36 are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2400 Enterprise Way, Oakland, California 94621, at 8 p.m. Phone 569-3465.

The hours of the Financial Secretary's office are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday the office closes at 1 p.m.

Fraternally,  
ALLEN L. LINDER,  
Rec. Sec.

## MILLMEN'S UNION 550

The next Regular Meeting of Millmen's Union 550 will be held on Friday, November 21, 1969, at 8 p.m. in Room 225-229, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California.

All members are URGED to attend their Union Meetings and participate in the transaction of its business.

Members are hereby reminded that when they pay their dues by mail they should send their Dues Book, Work Card and Self Addressed, STAMPED envelope with their payment.

Members working under the Mill-Cabinet Master Agreement are reminded that effective the 1st of November their Dues are increased by 50 cents per month.

Fraternally,  
GEO. H. JOHNSON,  
Fin. Sec.

## STEEL MACHINISTS 1304

Regular meeting Thursday, November 20, at 8 p.m. Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Blood Bank dues are due and payable between now and the first of the year. It's \$2 for all of 1970. Where can you buy such important protection, at such an insignificant price? At 1304 you can! We've never personally used it. But we're happier now we're protected. You should be too.

Fraternally,  
DAVE ARCA,  
Rec. Sec.

## HAYWARD CARPENTERS 1622

Attend your meetings! Know what's going on! Several things of special interest to you carpenters will be brought up in the next meetings!

Regular meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. with a social following the meeting on the fourth Thursday.

Offices closed and no meeting on Thanksgiving Day.

The office of the financial secretary is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays, and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

Steward meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. A stewards training program is held in conjunction with the stewards meeting.

Fraternally,  
KYLE MOON,  
Rec. Sec.

## BARBERS 134

The regular November meeting will be held on November 20, 1969 in Room H of the Labor Temple, 23rd and Valdez Streets, Oakland. Dues and assessments are due on or before the first day of the month for which they are due. There will be a \$1 assessment on the second notice or bill.

Officers will be nominated at our November meeting. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, the meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 1969. Please take notice!

Fraternally,  
JACK M. REED,  
Sec.-Treas.

## UNITED STEELWORKERS 1798

Regular Membership Meeting, Friday, November 21, 1969, 8 p.m., Eagles Hall, 1228 36th Ave., Oakland, Calif.

The Regular Membership meeting will be held one week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Fraternally,  
EDWARD M. SOTO,  
Rec. Sec.

## SERVICE EMPLOYEES 18

The November membership meeting of Service Employees Local 18, which had been scheduled for Friday, November 28, has been cancelled because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Fraternally,  
VICTOR C. BRANDT,  
Sec.-Bus. Rep.

## PLUMBERS & GAS FITTERS 444

The next regular meeting of Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local Union No. 444 will be held on Friday, December 5, 1969 in Hall A, on the first floor of the Labor Temple Building, at 8 p.m.

1. There will be the regular order of business.

The election of those members nominated as delegates to the State Pipe Trades Convention or any other conventions at the last membership meeting will be held in Room 229 on the second floor of the Labor Temple Building between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on this same date.

### REMINDER

Also, on December 5, 1969, the Holiday checks will be passed out to the members from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Union business office, Room 212 of the Labor Temple Building.

Please make an earnest effort to attend your union meeting and participate in electing your new officers. This is a very important part of your union membership.

Fraternally,  
GEORGE A. HESS,  
Bus. Mgr. &  
Fin. Sec.-Treas.

## ALAMEDA CARPENTERS 194

Our Children's Christmas Party will be held at the Eagles Hall, 1228 36th Ave., Oakland, at 7:45 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 1969. We will have a stage show featuring Professional Entertainment, Santa Claus, and free gifts for all the children.

The cards are in the mail. Please fill them out as soon as possible and return them by December 4 or sooner if possible. There is no charge.

Thanking you for your cooperation.

Fraternally,  
WM. "BILL" LEWIS,  
Rec. Sec.

Carpenters Local 194 meets the First and Third Monday evenings of the month at 8:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 2301 Central Avenue, Alameda.

Refreshments are served following the first meeting of the month in the Canteen for all present. You are urged to attend your Local's meetings.

Fraternally,  
WM. "BILL" LEWIS,  
Rec. Sec.

## PRINTING SPECIALTIES 678

Meeting second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in Cannery Workers Hall, 492 C Street, Hayward, Calif.

Fraternally,  
JOSEPH CABRAL,  
Sec.

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 3

General membership meeting Hall C, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland the fourth Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,  
WRAY JACOBS,  
Rec. Sec.

## BERKELEY CARPENTERS 1158

Regular meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut St., Berkeley.

Be a good member! Attend union meetings. You may win a door prize.

Fraternally,  
NICK J. AFDAMO,  
Rec. Sec.

## AUTO & SHIP PAINTERS 1176

Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room H, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, at 8 p.m.

Fraternally,  
LESLIE K. MOORE,  
Bus. Rep.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 216

The regular meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Fraternally,  
ROBERT M. COOPER,  
Bus. Rep.

# Labor backs 50 per cent boost in Social Security pay

The AFLCIO told Congress that President Nixon's proposed 10 per cent increase in Social Security is "totally inadequate" and renewed its support for a bill providing for a 50 per cent increase in two years.

The bill introduced by Democratic Congressman Jacob H. Gilbert of New York also would establish a comprehensive health care program for the nation's elderly.

At the same time, the federation proposed welfare reform designed to eliminate poverty through a variety of programs emphasizing federal job training, employment, minimum wage and federal welfare assistance.

AFLCIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller told the House Ways & Means Committee that Nixon's proposal has some good ideas but falls far short of

the needed "program of bold, imaginative reform."

The Gilbert bill calls for two 20 per cent across the board increases in Social Security by January 1, 1972, and two increases in the current \$55 a month minimum bringing it to \$120 a month by 1972.

Thereafter the measure provides for automatic increases geared to rises in the cost of living.

The measure would also increase a widow's benefit to 100 per cent of her husband's Social Security benefit, allow a senior citizen to earn more without reducing benefits and make many other significant changes.

## By whatever name it's still inflation

California factory workers got an average of \$6.87 more per week in September of this year than in the same month in 1968—and their paychecks bought nearly 2 per cent less despite the Nixon "anti-inflation" job-cutting policies.

The inflation figures from the State Department of Industrial Relations: Purchasing power of workers with three dependents fell 1.8 per cent, for single workers purchasing power fell 1.6 per cent. The record \$149.56 a week average paycheck was worth only \$95.35 in 1959 dollars, \$171 less than workers were making in 1959.

## BTC sets meet to act on per capita

Continued from page 1

late Charles Roe, Carpenters 1622 and state AFL leader who died last week. The council adjourned in his memory.

Jones recalled that Roe had given valuable service to all East Bay building trades unions as assistant business agent of the BTC from 1933 to 1942. Mel Johnson of Carpenters 36 praised Roe as one of those who were instrumental in gaining Bay Area and Northern California Carpenters health and welfare in the 1950s. Roe, he disclosed, completed his apprenticeship as a Local 36 member in 1931.

As a member of the Local 1622 Welfare Committee, Roe helped many union brothers, Al Thoman of Local 36 said.

The council voted to dispense with next Tuesday's executive board meeting so that union representatives could attend the State Building Trades Council's day long meeting at Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, on the new law governing factory-built housing.

At the request of the Alameda County Fair Housing Campaign Committee, the BTC authorized use of its name as an endorser of the county Human Relations Commission's efforts to gain additional staff from the county supervisors to develop a continuing housing program.

New BTC contracts reported are with W. Djernes & Sons, Jimar Builders, Inc., Pacific Seeding Co. and Bob Marcom.

## Rubber Workers fill 2 jobs

The United Rubber Workers have named Thomas E. Dotson education director and Ron G. Fisher its research director. Dotson is to succeed John D. House on the latter's retirement December 31. Fisher, assistant research director for three years, succeeds Kenneth Thornbury who resigned to accept a post at the University of Colorado.

Look for the union shop card, ask for a union clerk to serve you, and demand the union label!

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County AFL-CIO.

43rd Year, Number 36

November 21, 1969

JOHN M. ESHLEMAN, Editor

LEONARD MILLIMAN, Assistant to the Editor

1622 East 12th Street, Oakland, Calif. 94606

Phone 261-3981

## GE strike is a battle for your union's future

There has been no strike in many years which will have as far-reaching an effect on every member of organized labor—and on everyone's standard of living—as the present tough struggle by 147,000 members of 13 unions against the giant General Electric Company.

The fight is now nearly a month old, and there is complete solidarity among the 10 AFL-CIO unions and the three unaffiliated unions whose members are marching their picket lines at GE plants across the country. The AFL-CIO has called for complete unity and solidarity by every other working person behind those 13 unions' battle.

Such solidarity is essential, not just to win for the 147,000 strikers, but to win for you and every other person who works for a living. You will be or may already have been asked for a \$1 contribution to the strike fund. That \$1 should be a minimum contribution. Each one of us should give as much more as he can because the fate of the GE strike will have a deep effect upon your union's ability to win contracts under which you earn your dollars. If GE wins the struggle it has provoked, other employers will follow suit.

GE is determined to wreck the concept of coordinated bargaining in which separate unions whose members work at one huge corporation may pool their strength against the corporation's great power. It challenges the actual concept of bargaining by handing its employees a "final" inadequate offer and saying—"take it or you get nothing."

GE has assumed the incongruous pose of anti-inflation fighter. It cannot pay more, it says piously, because to do so would unleash another round of inflation.

That claim gets the support of the Nixon administration, whose sympathies for big business did not need to be demonstrated, but the claim is a shaky one.

GE, particularly, which was found guilty of flagrant price-fixing and bid-rigging to keep prices high—high prices are "inflation"—cannot claim gracefully to be opposing inflation. Profits, which more than offset wage increases, are the cause of high prices, and GE's profits have been far from skimpy. It is interesting to note that just days after GE forced its employees on to picket lines, it sent out its dividend checks to stockholders.

Other employers are keeping a close eye on the luck GE may have with its "take it or leave it" non-bargaining and its holier than thou anti-inflation pose.

If the big electrical manufacturing company gets away with these two gambits, if it wins and forces its workers to take what it wants to give them—then your wages and conditions are in danger.

If GE wins, your employer may be next to try its tactics. Support the GE strikers. You are supporting your own pay and benefits in your union's next contract.

## Nixonism means joblessness

September's big upsurge in joblessness was no fluke as new government figures disclose that the national unemployment rate continued practically unchanged in October.

Employment still continues to grow but at a markedly lesser rate than before the Nixon formula of stopping inflation through joblessness took effect. And newest data shows actual job decreases in three significant sections of the economy.

The fact that Nixonism means fewer jobs comes home to the Bay Area where total employment fell by 6,200 between September and October, largest job loss for that period since 1962.

Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics finds employment falling off each month since June in three fields—15,000 a month in construction, 2,000 a month in manufacturing and some 12,000 a month in government employment. Nixonism means fewer jobs.

Any credit the Nixon administration might want to take for ending inflation by boosting unemployment is invalidated by the simple fact that it has not stopped inflation. There have been continued increases in the prices we pay—whether we still have jobs or have lost them through the Nixon "anti-inflation" campaign.

Inflation even throws a shadow over the imminent Christmas holidays. We recommend you read Sidney Margolius' somber report on page 2 of this edition that toy prices are up 10 to 25 per cent over Christmas, 1968, compared to a big 6 per cent increase in over-all consumer prices. Some toy manufacturers, he discloses, inflate their profits by cutting down on size or quantity for the same price that bought more a year ago. One doll, an inch shorter, is about \$1 more expensive.

We wonder if anyone can say that more unemployment and an inch shorter doll for \$1 more constitute a cure for inflation.

'Right With You, Brother!'



## Neither sleet nor snow -- profits

There are ominous signs that the taxpayers stand a good chance of paying for most of the cost of delivering private telegrams, a United Telegraph Workers official warned this week.

The indications are in Western Union's testing, with United States Post Office help, of what it calls a "mailgram"—messages sent by wire direct to post offices where they are typed out, inserted in envelopes and sent out to the addressee for delivery by postmen.

Oakland, UTW 208 President Larry Ross disclosed, is one of the postal stations which is testing the new method.

### ALL WIRES?

It is ostensibly aimed at turning over delivery of night letters to the post office, he said, but if the necessary Federal Communications Commission approval is received he fears the system could spread to all non-commercial telegrams.

Western Union already is relying on Uncle Sam to deliver night letters in Los Angeles. Night letters originating within the state and destined for Los Angeles reach Western Union there and are then put in the mail.

This wage-saving and profit-boosting tactic is permitted for wires sent within the state under a World War II emergency action of the state Public Utilities Commission which wasn't used until recently but is still effective.

There was a manpower shortage during World War II, but there's none now and Western Union's recent moves have taken more and more jobs from union members, Ross noted.

### MORE PROFITABLE

He likened the telegraph firm's tactics to those of railroads which discourage passenger service, hoping to concentrate on the more profitable field of freight carrying.

In WU's case, the more profitable field is in big expensive communications systems for business and government. The less profitable field is delivery of your night letter or straight wire and that's where the "mailgram" test comes in.

Here's how "mailgram" would work:

A wire is routed straight to a "mailgram" post office where it is received on standard telegraph equipment, bypassing the local Western Union office, cutting down work there—and jobs.

The telegram goes into the post office system, ending up in a postman's bag and is delivered with the rest of the mail.

Delivery by messenger is the biggest single cost item in sending a wire, Ross noted. And it's also faster than delivery by the mailman.

Early next year, Ross said, the "mailgram" test will be extended to commercial "Telex" customers of WU, who are linked into teletype networks. They will then send "mailgram" wires to firms or persons not in their telex net, using post offices rather than local WU offices.

Local 208 has suffered jobwise for the last two years since WU took its Northern California-Nevada switching center out of Oakland and transferred its functions to Los Angeles. That cost about 100 jobs and since the center was one of the nation's largest, said Ross, trying to fit its operations into Los Angeles WU facilities was like "trying to ram a quart into a pint bottle."

Another 50 or so jobs went when the firm abolished its Pacific Division headquarters here, which had been a center for most of the west.

Another "saving" under study, he said, is setting up central telephone offices for whole states or big areas of states, eliminating local offices where your telephoned wire is received. It has already happened in a wide Illinois area, he said.

## OPINIONS

YOU WRITE 'EM . . .  
WE RUN 'EM

### 'Right on target'

Editor, Labor Journal:

Just wanted to commend you for your November 7, 1969, editorial regarding Acting Senator George Murphy's sneak attack on the farm workers through his drive against CRLA.

As usual you are right on target. CRLA would not be getting heat if it were not being effective. So many of the OEO projects have been boondoggles that when one comes along that really gets to the heart of the powerlessness issue plaguing farm workers we cannot, I repeat, cannot let Murphy and Reagan have their way.

Though most of our troops are out on the boycott, those of us who must stay at home and man phones and typewriters are always encouraged to read labor papers which still tell it like it is.

JIM DRAKE,  
Administrative Assistant,  
United Farm Workers  
Organizing Committee,  
Delano

### He says nice things

Editor, Labor Journal:

In the past 25 years I have been a member of Newspaper & Magazine Circulation Union, Local 96 used to assess the membership for a subscription to Labor Journal in years past.

As of November 1 I took out my retirement, and now have an honorary life membership in said Union.

As I have always used the Journal to get a balanced point of view, I would enjoy receiving it and I will make arrangements to continue getting it.

I've always told the wife the only reason I took the Tribune was to get the Wednesday coffee ads, and at election time I always took the Tribune to the polls and voted opposite to their suggested voting. Then I knew I was voting correctly.

M. R. TAYLOR,  
Clearlake Oaks



# The GE story -- 'fantastic profit,' low wages

AFLCIO Director of Organization William L. Kircher drew a startling contrast of "fantastic profits" by General Electric against wages barely meeting living costs and denying GE workers a share in the profits of their increased productivity.

Kircher told this week's East Bay GE strike rally that in 1960 GE realized a profit of 14.3 per cent on its net worth when the national average of all industry was 9.2 per cent. In 1968 the national profit average for all business was 12.1 per cent and for General Electric 14.8 per cent.

General Electric, the nation's fourth largest corporation and the world's biggest electrical manufacturer "has one of the most fantastic profit performances in all history during the

last 10 years, an increase of 78.5 per cent from 1960 to 1968," he said.

Cash flow, the guideline for a corporation's money making power, was up a whopping 108 per cent in the same period. At the end of last year, when most corporations were borrowing money at high interest rates, GE had \$670,000,000 cash on hand, Kircher disclosed.

In contrast to GE's remarkable record of corporate wealth, the hourly rate of its employees rose a meager 70 cents during the same period, or just about what the rising cost of living would absorb.

During the same period wages in the electrical utility industry rose \$1.14 cents an hour or 44 cents more than that of GE

workers. Auto worker wages were up \$1.16, or 46 cents more.

Aerospace wages rose \$1.09, or 39 cents more. In the engine turbine industry, wages were up 97 cents, 27 more than in GE which is a big portion of the industry.

"GE's productivity increase," Kircher said, "equalled or surpassed that of all other major industry. So you see the worker, who can barely keep up with the cost of living and are not permitted to share in the productivity increase for which they are responsible."

In this situation, the company made a "non-negotiable offer" of 20 cents in the first year of a three-year contract and nothing in the second or third year except a wage reopening, with the prospect of future strikes.

## Drake, Medeiros elected in voting by Culinary 823

Wesley Drake was elected president and Joseph Medeiros succeeded Roy Woods as secretary-treasurer in balloting last week by Hayward Culinary Workers & Bartenders 823. Both were unopposed.

Medeiros had resigned as president to run for the secretary-treasurer position vacated by Woods' retirement.

The membership re-elected incumbent Vice President Ray Jandro without opposition. Robert Otteson and Bud Gillick were named business agents. Both were unopposed. Otteson was an incumbent.

Two incumbent trustees, Lillian Delaney and Helen LaPerle, were re-elected and a new trustee, Leslie Paxton, was elected.

Named to the executive board were Marjorie Chisholm, Gino Collins, Ralph Lawson, Irma Machado, Dan Silva and Gary Marciel. All but Marciel were incumbents.

## Social Security falls short of U.S. budgets for aged

Government statistics disclosed that the average retired couple receives \$1,100 less a year from Social Security than the lowest of three budgets the government recommends to meet living costs of retired couples in city areas.

The three budgets, listed in the November issue of the Labor Department's Monthly Labor Review and updated to the spring of 1969, call for \$2,943 in the lower budget, \$4,251 at the intermediate level and \$6,540 to meet the higher budget.

Social Security figures for last December showed a national average of \$104 a month for the retired worker and \$49 for the wife, or a combined total of \$1,536 a year. California and Alameda County figures came out just \$12 lower a year. A Social Security spokesman pointed out that those retiring more recently "are getting a little more."

The three budgets for retired couples are to be published later this year by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The differences between the three represent varying standards of maintaining "health and well-being."

The three budgets represent an increase of 9 per cent over spring 1967 figures published of \$2,700; \$3,900 and \$6,000. The 9 per cent is the amount the Labor Review says they have been increased by rising prices.

Look for the union shop card, ask for a union clerk to serve you, and demand the union label!

## East Bay labor movement set for battle against GE

Continued from page 1

and AFLCIO Regional Representative Gene DeChristofaro.

Kircher traced five months of GE negotiations by 13 unions in which the company made no offer until its one and only "final" bid on October 7, leaving the unions no option but to strike October 26.

GE, with a "fantastic profit performance" and whose workers' pay has barely kept up with the cost of living, then unleashed a massive propaganda campaign to undermine unions with their members and to tell the public GE's pitch, he said.

That pitch is "inflation-fighting," something Kircher said was dubious at best from a company which has been found "guilty of price-fixing and gouging, most effectively carrying on its price fixing where government contracts are concerned, victimizing the taxpayers and thereby getting every one of us."

### NATIONWIDE THREAT

And, Kircher said, GE's drive against labor is just part of a nationwide picture which sees the National Association of Manufacturers printing guidebooks and sample letters to workers for management to use in preventing union organizing.

"We need leaders who will take back to the membership the vital

importance of winning the GE strike," he concluded.

"We must make the cause of the General Electric strikers the cause of every trade unionist and we will win."

## Nixon support to GE pitch decried

General Electric has the Nixon administration as an ally in its fight against labor, AFLCIO Director of Organization William L. Kircher and Central Labor Council President Russell R. Crowell told this week's GE strike rally here.

"The administration position on inflation is that unions should take less but it never says a word about profits, the big cause of inflation," said Kircher.

"The administration's union busting will come subtly disguised as a fight on inflation," Crowell said.

Crowell noted also that GE "sold us its worst product" in featuring now Governor Ronald Reagan's television pitch for the company during the 1950s.

Kircher and CLC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Richard K. Groulx noted that, in Ohio and California, GE executives took to the stump to campaign for anti-union shop "right to work."

## from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

Continued from page 1

bow of a gigantic oil tanker still on the shipway.

★ ★ ★

THE PICTURE relates to a story that oil tankers now run to 200,000 deadweight tons although up to last year the biggest were a mere 100,000 tons. This seems quite big to me, since I helped build 8,000 or 9,000-ton Liberty freighters during World War II and previously sailed as a teen aged deckhand on a 10,000 ton intercoastal passenger liner — and I thought those were big ships.

The publication also notes that building the 200,000 tonners keeps lots of shipyard workers busy—but not Bay Area shipyard workers, nor West Coast shipyard workers but German shipyard workers at Kiel, building four of the monsters for Texaco.

★ ★ ★

THERE ARE lots of other things in Texaco's book, including fascinating color photos of people riding horses and carrying antique rifles, manning a fishing boat, walking through a bazaar and doing other colorful things in Morocco. And there is a story telling the reader why the 27½ per cent oil "depletion" tax break should be retained.

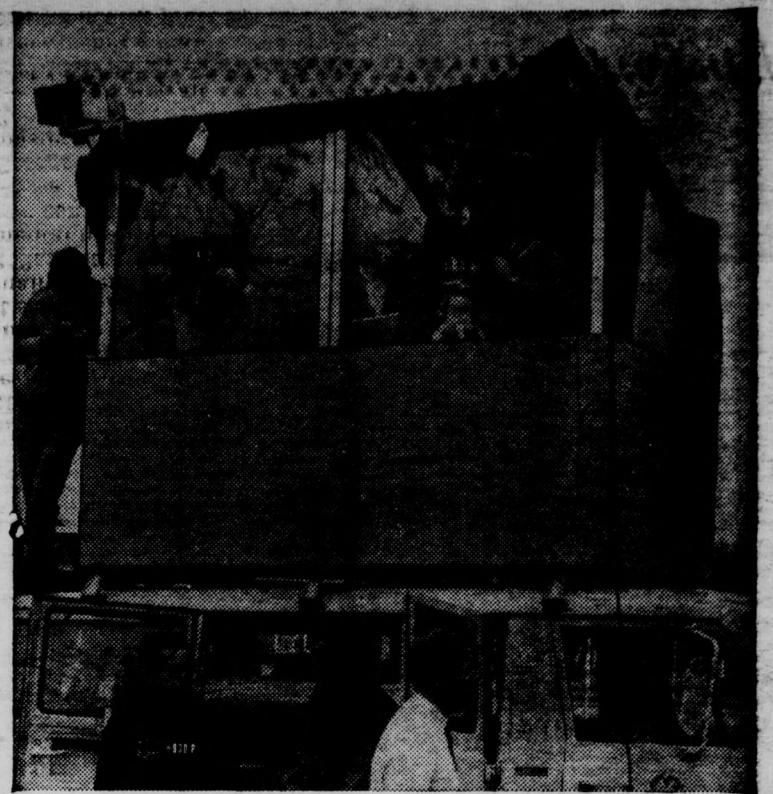
But it seems to me that the most important thing that should be said is that the multi-billion dollar oil industry has perhaps the most favorable tax arrangement of any industry, thanks to "depletion" and other gimmicks and does not even have the grace to spend its shipbuilding money at home.

★ ★ ★

AND IT also seems to me that if you don't write your Senators and the members of the Senate Finance Committee asking retention and strengthening of the House tax justice bill, you'll keep on straining to pay your taxes while the oil industry gets a great big break.

## GE pours it on

General Electric misses no bet when it comes to influencing people, Executive-Secretary-Treasurer Richard K. Groulx told this week's GE strike support rally. Called to debate against the anti-union shop "right to work" initiative before 15 students in 1958, he recalled, he found himself opposing three GE representatives favoring "right to work" — "one debater and two resource persons."



JUST WHY it takes photos of the pickets it provoked into a nationwide strike, General Electric doesn't say, but here is its photographer behind a plastic screen in what looks like a company "press box" at Burlington, Vermont. The camera shelter is mounted on a company van behind a wire fence.

## Charles Roe, Carpenter, Cal. Federation leader, dead

Continued from page 1

Local 1622. He was first elected business representative in 1938, a post he held for 22 years.

For 27 years he was a delegate to the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters and the Alameda County Building Trades Council. He also was a longtime delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Roe was vice president of the former AFL State Federation prior to the amalgamation with the CIO into the California Labor Federation.

His public posts included chairman of the City of Hayward Industrial Commission which developed the city's industrial park and made the first demands for a four-lane San Mateo Bridge, and member of the Alameda County Welfare Commission for 20 years in which post he was instrumental in establishing a Hayward branch.

### CITIZEN GROUPS

He was a member of citizens committees that helped establish California State College at Hay-

ward and helped bring San Joaquin River water to the South County.

Roe was awarded the certificate of merit in 1964 by the Carpentry & Apprentice Training Program of which he was a member.

Roe was on the Carpenters Bay Counties conference board and negotiating committees that established employer paid health and welfare, pensions, vacation, prescription, life insurance and dental care.

He was a delegate to many Carpenters' national conventions, chairman of the resolutions committee for the state Council of Carpenters 1959-65, trustee for the Carpenters Health & Welfare Plan and the Bay District Council Vacation Plan, and a member of Western States Speakers Bureau.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Sam Hardin of Richmond, and two grandsons. His wife died last June.

Funeral services were held Tuesday from Sorensen's Mortuary in Hayward.

## About everything's wrong with county mental care, says union

A sweeping indictment of mental health services in Alameda County as inadequate and badly managed was submitted to the grand jury by Social Workers 535.

The report charged that county's Mental Health Service Division is understaffed, underpaid, overcrowded, lacking facilities to care for an exploding population and not supported by the county administrator.

As a result, the union said, mentally disturbed persons have been refused treatment, held illegally in county hospital or released without supervision when they should not have been. And it said outpatient service has virtually been abandoned and tax dollars have been wasted, forcing mental health services to operate in a continuing crisis.

The report was compiled by George L. Gardner, who holds a master's degree in social work. It comprised the mental health report to the grand jury by Local 535 which represents the overwhelming majority of county mental health professionals.

In this age of a disturbing generation gap, the report noted that facilities to care for only 59 acutely disturbed youngsters — with 250,000 children in the public schools — are provided at either county or state levels. In this situation Juvenile Hall becomes the only recourse for parents at their wits end with emotionally disturbed children.

The report called for a grand jury investigation "of the roles played in the dehumanizing and expensive fiasco by Mental Health, county administrator, welfare department and board of supervisors" in failing to provide needed supervision under which some patients could be returned to society. The county has released them without supervision of kept them illegally under care while closing its psychiatric services to lengthy waiting lists.

The report bitterly attacked the county administration for reneging on commitments to the state, for failing to match other counties in payments to specialists, size of staff and facilities provided.